

Attorney Docket No: 40116/03601 (1513/1514)

REMARKS**I. INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1, 11, and 16 have been amended. Claims 18-19 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-17 and 20-24 are pending in the present application. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 17 if rewritten in independent form. However, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

II. THE U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 11, 16, and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,259,929 to Kuisma in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0183038 to Comstock et al. (Comstock). (See 8/7/07 Office Action, pp. 2, 4-5).

Kuisma is directed toward a radio phone composed of separate modules. Kuisma includes a basic module and at least one additional module detachably connected thereto. The additional modules include the main part of the electrical circuits required in transmitting and receiving an analogue or a digital signal. (See Kuisma, abstract). The basic module may fixedly include the first or second additional module. (See Id., col. 3, l. 58 – col. 4, l. 6). The modules are connected externally to the basic module. (See Id., col. 3, ll. 60-62; Figs. 1-3).

Comstock is directed toward a system and method for crediting an account of a network access node which includes receiving a data signal at a network access node, forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node, and providing account crediting information to

Attorney Docket No: 40116/03601 (1513/1514)

an accounting system. (See Comstock, abstract). The portable devices may function as repeaters or access points. (See Id., p. 2, ¶[0021]). For example, the portable device 20 receives data signals from the access point 18 and forwards the data signals to the portable devices 22, 24 that lie outside a maximum range of the access point 18 but within a range of the portable device 20. (See Id., p. 4, ¶[0033]).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “a removable module configured for insertion into the module receiving slot *so that the removable module is disposed at least partially within the housing.*” The amendment has been added to further illustrate that when the removable module is *inserted* into the module receiving slot, the removable module is also at least partially within the housing of the access point. (See Specification, pp. 5-6, ¶¶[0009]-[0010]). In contrast, Kuisma discloses modules that are connected to the basic module, but are never inserted into the housing of the basic module. (See Kuisma, col. 3, l. 58 – col. 4, l. 6; Figs. 1-3, 6). Figs. 1-3 clearly show that the housings of each of the modules remain external to the housings of the other modules even in the connected states. In its entirety, Kuisma does not disclose that the first or second additional module is *inserted* into the basic module in any way so that at least a portion of the first or second additional module is disposed within the basic module. In its entirety, Comstock does not disclose or suggest how the portable devices are configured or an architecture of the portable devices.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that either Kuisma or Comstock, either alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest “a removable module configured for insertion into the module receiving slot so that the removable module is disposed at least partially within the housing,” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1. Because claim 22 depends from

Attorney Docket No: 40116/03601 (1513/1514)

and, therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable.

Independent claim 11 recites a housing including a "second receiving slot being capable of receiving a second removable module so that the second removable module is disposed at least partially within the housing." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 11 for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claim 23 depends from and, therefore includes all the limitations of claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable.

Independent claim 16 recites "at least one module selectively insertable into and removable from the slot so that the at least one module is disposed at least partially within the housing." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 16 for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claim 24 depends from and, therefore includes all the limitations of claim 16, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable.

Claims 4-7, 10, 12, 13, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuisma in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0172336 to Postma et al. (Postma). (See 8/7/07 Office Action, p. 5). Kuisma was discussed above.

Initially, it is noted that claim 19 was previously cancelled and still being rejected by the Examiner. Applicants assume the Examiner made a typographical error. In addition, it is noted that the Examiner bases the rejection of claims 4-7, 10, 12, 13, and 20-21 strictly on Kuisma. However, the Examiner admitted that Kuisma does not disclose the recitations of claims 1, 11, and 16. (See 8/7/07 Office Action, pp. 2-4). Applicants assume the Examiner

Attorney Docket No: 40116/03601 (1513/1514)

rejects claims 4-7, 10, 12, 13, and 20-21 over Kuisma in view of Comstock in further view of Postma. Comstock was discussed above.

Postma discloses an information system that includes a first module and a second module that interoperate over first and second communication ports. Interoperation over the first and second communication ports provides the first module access to functions and features of the second module and provides the second module access to functions and features of the first module. The first module is operable to communicate over a first network and the second module is operable to communicate over a second network. (See Postma, abstract). Specifically, Postma is directed toward a base module (*e.g.*, telephone) used in combination with a portable module (*e.g.*, PDA). The portable module is received in a receiving portion that is created through a peripheral cavity of the base module. (See *Id.*, pp. 3-4, ¶[0062]).

The Examiner correctly stated that Kuisma does not disclose the recitations of claims 4-7, 10, 12, 13, and 20-21. (See 8/7/07 Office Action, pp. 5-7). Applicants assume the Examiner admits that Comstock also does not disclose the recitations of claims 4-7, 10, 12, 13, and 20-21. The Examiner attempted to cure these deficiencies using Postma. However, similar to Kuisma and Comstock, Postma also does not disclose “a removable module configured for insertion into the module receiving slot so that the removable module is disposed at least partially within the housing,” as recited in claim 1. Specifically, no portion of the portable module of Postma is disposed within the housing of the base module. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that either Kuisma, Comstock, or Postma, either alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest the above recitation of claim 1. Accordingly, because claims 4-7, 10, 12, 13, and 20-21 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of its respective independent claim, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Attorney Docket No: 40116/03601 (1513/1514)

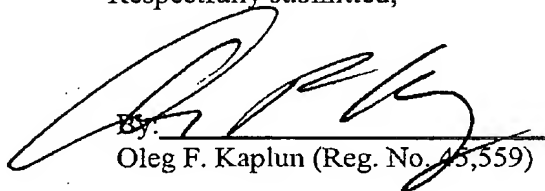
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks submitted above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present case is in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, and a favorable action on the merits is thus earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

11/7/07


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